NEWSLETTER #7

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1/8/79

Special Thanks to: Dee Dee W., Carole M., Patricia W., Delores C., Rachia H., Leslie R., The Kay Mayflower Society, and Frances G.
Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

STATEMENT: I have been asked many times what I expect to get out of this project. Some believe and perhaps fear I have a desire for power. I am not interested in power. I am not a boss by nature or by preference. Some think ego gratification. That is certainly true, for like all of us I like to feel important, of some value to other people. This however is not the important reward. I am a philosopher, a thinker, and get enormous satisfaction in seeing my thoughts bear fruit. I am a cross-dresser by pleasure and inclination, a transgenderal person. To me for human beings to express themselves along gender lines is a wonderful and uniquely human phenomena. Because of this, because I am a transvestite philosopher, I want to see my philosophical fruit borne in the field of gender expression. I see an opportunity for my thoughts to directly effect the lives of thousands, and indirectly the lives of all people. I see myself confronted with the greatest challenge I have ever faced, to help thousands achieve peace of mind, gain a different perspective of beauty and appreciation, to develop a better mode for love, for mutual respect, for human relations, to help people achieve the highest gratification for being alive, and for being human. It is possible, and as a philosopher, this is my reward. Merissa Sherrill Lynn

**** Important: Cherrystone was a Boston based social club for crossdressers. Although our project has taken root and evolved independently of Cherrystone, all our hopes and much of the groundwork were born there. Our project became independent only when it became frustratingly obvious that the existing power structure was going to resist any effort to reorganize and grow.

The separation of our project from Cherrystone occured in September. Since then we have gained support, and have learned what we are doing, where we are going, and, how we are going to get there. Now, with our project firmly established and underway, we receive some startling news. Several weeks ago a rift occured between the Cherrystone membership and their Board of Directors. The principle members of the Board (who were the primary obstacles to growth in the first place) left, taking the name Cherrystone with them. They left behind an active membership of ten persons, and the facilities. That membership then made some modifications on our constitution, and changed their name to The Kay Mayflower Society.

Now what do we do? Should we work together with the Mayflower group or continue to work separately? The conditions we had preyed for for two years and finally gave up hope on six months ago, may now exist. However, we have worked hard for the development of an effective organization, have a sizeable supportive membership, and a well thought out and practical constitution. We have different goals, attitudes, methods, etc., problems that would be extremely difficult to overcome. Now the question remains, should we try to work something out? The answere is I believe, a qualified yes. It is worth a try.

We have been assured that the Mayflower Society now maintains a more progressive attitude, and there is now a good climate for growth, for

cooperation and negotiation. This suprising turn of events has presented us with a golden opportunity to take a rapid step forward to the attainment of our goals. It would be well worth our while to try to work something out. As Nancy, a member of Mayflower, says, "I would rather see one good organization." What do you think?

COMING EVENTS:

Wednesay Evenings- Kay Mayflower Society open meetings. For information write Kay Campbell, c/o Cherrystone, Box 66, Allston Mass. 02134 or call 617-254-7389

Wednesday 1/17/79 7:30pm-9:00pm Mayflower Society business meeting. Organizational topics will be discussed.

Thursday 1/18/79 Tri Sigma meeting. Tri Sigma members only. Time and location to be announced. (note change of date from Thurs. 1/11/79)

PARTY: Mayflower Society (alias Cherrystone) Saturday 1/20/79 8pm - Refreshments provided, $2.00 cover charge BYOB
For information call Kay, 617-254-7389

Note: Due to the recent chain of events, our party tentatively scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 4 has been temporarily postponed. (When we find out what's going on we will definitely have a party - and a good one.)

Misc.: Name of a Boston engineering firm:
CAMP, DRESSER,AND MCKEE inc.

Contributions: Money is needed to help finance the monthly newsletter, and to be set aside for the further development of our project. Send your contributions to: Merissa Sherrill Lynn, Box 426, N. Hampton N.H. 03862

**** NAME: Help!!! We still don't have a name. The sooner we have a name the sooner we can open our bank accounts, go legal, etc. Coming up with an appropriate name has proved more difficult than anticipated.

We do not need a name for a national project. That will evolve in time and might be called something like 'Crossdressers International' or TV Coalition of North America', or may join forces with an existing organization such as the I.A.M.F. We do need a name for our local project. (As local projects evolve elsewhere, they can be named by the persons involved.) We need a name for our facilities, and we need a name for our newsletter.

This is the criterion for naming our local project: 1.) It must be able to be used as a legal name. 2.) It should not be cute or vulgar, or subject to anyone's grins or grimaces. It should meet general acceptance. 3.) It should be flexible enough to accomodate the wide range of interests and personalities of persons involved. For instance, names like 'Queens Liberation Front' or 'The Spank N' Hankie Club' just don't do the trick. Also, many persons would view our project as a service, not a club; a place to get dressed and be left alone, or an outlet for specialized services, etc. They simply are not interested in joining a club, society or sorority, be it social, political, service or otherwise. Others are.

Now I have made it simple for you. Let's have those suggestions. Here are the leading suggestions to date:

'TV Cooperative of New England'(The Coop)
'New England League of Crossdressers'
'New England TV Coalition'
'Calendar (or Kalendar) Club'
'Chantilly'
'Champagne Club'
'Coronet Social Club'
'Tiffany Club' (gives a sense of richness, and is the name of a champion tea rose) (makes a handy logo)
'Carousel' (name of a champion red rose)
'Mayflower Society' (current name of the Cherrystone club)

'Genesis'
'Milady'
'Renaissance Club'
'September Club' (september is when the project was founded)
'The Euphorium' (facility)
'TV Studio' (facility)
'The TV Vespiary' (facility)
'The Coop' (TVCNE, facility)
'FEMINA' (an acronym for Female emphatic Males in Narcisstic Attire)
'Vestis' (latin for dress)
'GALS' (an acronym for Gender And Lifestyle Society)
'TV CHANNEL' (newsletter)
'TV TAPESTRY' (newsletter)

Come on gals, let's have your suggestions, or at least let us know if you like any of these.

SPECIAL REVIEW OF OUR PROJECT TO DATE

This review is being done because of the sudden and unexpected increase of interested persons, as well as the need to keep our objectives clearly understood, This summary includes a brief history of why our project came to be, and a brief analysis of our first six newsletters.

History: Originally the Cherrystone Club was comprised of members of FPE (now Tri Sigma). That group cut ties with FPE, rented an apartment and called themselves The Jay Cherrystone Players. Within Cherrystone there developed an atmosphere of conservativism and a solid resistance to growth. Cherrystone was another closet, a place to store clothing and get dressed. It was boring. Progressive persons such as Ariadne Kane (who has since founded Outreach) and myself (Merissa Sherrill Lynn) tried to do something, but frustration made it necessary for us to operate independently. Ariadne's split came in 1975, and mine reluctantly came last September when I put out two newsletters independently of Cherrystone.

Newsletters 1 and 2 9/25-78

The first newsletter was an inquiry and questionaire designed to determine how much support there would be for the development of a new organization. The response was considerable, and extremely encouraging. The second letter was written to members of existing organizations.

In the first letter I pointed out the tremendous need for an effective and self-perpetuating social organization for crossdressers. I promised to do what had to be done to get such a project organized and functioning, and to keep it functioning till it could stand on its own. That meant developing an organization that would provide a person a place to dress and relax free from fear, a place to store clothing, a way to come out of the closet and make friends, an organization that would provide programs to increase one's feminine skills and to have fun. A battle plan on how to achieve these goals was outlined. To date, with the exception of facilities, that plan has been lived up to.

The second letter included an analysis of existing organizations, and why these organizations could not be the primary force for the organization we had in mind. I.e.:

Tri Sigma - It is the largest national organization for strictly heterosexual male crossdressers. It maintains an image of sophisticated conservatism, which is its strength. That is also its weakness, for it tends to be exclusive. That is a necessary quality for many and is therefore important, but it simply does not fit the bill for most persons. Also, the condition that caused the split between FPE and Cherrystone still remains, namely too much regulation, too little flexibility. Tri Sigma is a super organization - for the right person.

International Alliance - The IAMF was to be all things to all people, but proved too much too quickly, with too little support. In other words, had the best idea, but went about it the wrong way. Should have developed the solid grassroots support first, which is what we are trying to do. Who knows, with our support IAMF may yet succeed. Let us hope so.

TVIC Albany - A lovely group, but a two person project. It is not self-perpetuating, therefore doomed.

Cherrystone - Right place to start, but wrong power structure. All progressive attempts condemned to frustration. (That power structure has since broken down and could still be the right place to start.)

Letter # 3 10/31/78

A summary of the responses, and a call for a meeting. Also included was a statement of our facilities as I perceived them - a house with parking space, overnight facilities, rec room, office space, etc.

Letter #4 11/15/78

A confirmation of our first meeting, and a statement of our challenge. That challenge remains relevant, and deserves to be repeated.

******* <u>THE CHALLENGE</u>

There are many who crossdress, and at least as many reasons for crossdressing. There are conservative people, exotic people, and people vulnerable to mood, guilt, fear, and finances. Some people want a place to hide, others want a place to grow, some want parties, others to just be left alone. To develop an active and effective social and service organization from this confusion seems somewhat absurd, yet here we are in the face of this absurdity and in the shadow and ashes of previous attempts, trying once again to do just that. This time we will succeed!

In order to achieve our goals we must first recognize and appreciate the right of each of us to be different, to be our own person. We must respect and accept that each of us has a different reason for dressing and different needs. We must allow people to seek their own company and their own way without inflicting our personal ideals, prejudices and private objectives upon them. We have no room for personality problems or unreasonable demands upon members. We have all the room in the world for friendship, understanding, and above all else, unselfish cooperation. Let us remember that as crossdressers we are special people, all members of the same unique family. Every member of that family is our sister, different, yet deserving our love and our understanding. So whatever our feelings, whatever our private attitudes, let's work together and do what we have to do to get what needs to be done, done.

Letter #5 11/27/78

A summary of the meeting which included a continuation of our battle plan, the search for a name (which has proved to be a problem) and the call for a constitutional meeting. Also included was a financial pledge statement. The results were very incouraging, and gave a clear indication as to how many persons outside of the Boston area were willing to commit themselves financially (many).

Letter #6 12/10/78

Was primarily the constitution finalized at the meeting on Dec. 5. The constitution was really the final step of a project that had been in the works for a number of years. How to build an organization for crossdressers that was simple, functional and practical. We succeeded. The highlights:

A national organization and business ventures such as country clubs, boutiques, etc. are in the wind and our constitution is flexible enough to allow a natural and orderly growth in that direction.

Our constitution is democratic, keeping the power out of the hands of a single person or elite few, yet can survive on the sweat of just one person. It allows for the support of and cooperation with other organizations such as IAMF, Tri Sigma, and The Outreach Foundation. It provides security. In other words, our constitution is flexible and simple, yet is effective, and was drawn up with the needs of crossdressers in mind.

Letter #7 1/8/79

One more step towards the development of our orga nization, and the and the achievement of our goals.

Any of the newsletters are available upon request, including copies of the constitution.

MY LOVE TO YOU ALL

Merissa Sherrill Lynn